

Request for Economic Stimulus Funds

Concept Proposal

Submitters (Name of Workgroup & Chair/Co-Chairs):

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Project Title:

Kentucky Science, Engineering and Technology Education and Training Consortium

Project Partners (Proposed or Anticipated):

Educational: Eastern Kentucky University , Kentucky State University , Morehead State University , Murray State University , Northern Kentucky University , University of Kentucky , University of Louisville , Western Kentucky University, Campbellsville University, Pikeville College, Lindsey Wilson College, Kentucky Community and Technical College System.

Businesses and Private Industry: Those involved in the production, research, and/or practice of science, engineering, and technology, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce etc.

Governmental Organizations: NASA, Army Corps of Engineers, NSF, NIH, Commonwealth offices/officers, etc. (others!?).

Project Background & Purpose (Justification for Project):

Kentucky is in the lowest quartile in education and training within science, engineering and technology when compared to other states. Attracting science, technology and engineering based industries requires a workforce pool that is well educated and trained in addition to providing a business friendly environment. The purpose of the consortium would be to partner private and public enterprise with public and private colleges and universities within the commonwealth with government to:

1. Provide collaborative research, work co-op experience and internship opportunities to students and faculties.
2. Propose balanced public policies that fit the needs of the three entities; business, education, and government
3. Improve the training, expertise, and pay of Kentucky's workforce.

A marriage of the private and public enterprises of government, business, and education will help define the paradigm for an ever evolving educational system.

Project Description (General Goals & Implementation Strategies):

1. Expand the opportunities for talented faculty and students working in or attending undergraduate degree granting colleges and universities while simultaneously expanding the talent pool for larger graduate degree granting institutions and private industry.
2. Provide business an opportunity to participate in the education and training of the next generation of potential hires as well as keeping the educational institutions and public policy makers abreast of their requirements to function profitably within the commonwealth.

3. Expand opportunities for employment in the fields of Science and Engineering in Kentucky by partnering government with business and educational institutions such that public policies fit actual needs of this triad.
4. Workshops for teachers in secondary educational system by Consortium experts in the delivery and practice of fundamentals of science and mathematics to help improve teacher's delivery and student's understanding.
5. Outreach to rural communities where there is little exposure to the opportunities provided by education and training in Science, Engineering or Technology outside of those communities.
6. Increasing the base salaries within the Commonwealth
7. Have the consortium become self sustaining in five years via private and public funding other than stimulus monies

Project Team (Project Manager(s), Content Experts, Instructional Designers, etc.):

- Board of Managers will/can/should be faculty of Science, Engineering, and education as well as leaders in the business community, industry, and applicable governmental offices/officers
- Need to recruit from a myriad of departments within educational institutions, businesses and government organizations across the state (15-20 persons?).

Project Budget & Amount of Economic Stimulus Funds Requested:

\$7,000,000-10,000,000 over a five year span

- Director of the consortium with an appropriate salary and benefits.
- General overhead: office resources, equipment, travel, etc.
- Seed Grant monies for collaboration between graduate degree granting institutions and undergraduate degree granting institutions.
- Possible grant writer under contract or employee.
- Co-sponsoring of conferences business/government/colleges and universities
- Conference and training monies for secondary education teachers throughout the state.
- University and College Faculty participants load reduction